

## The Right to Health and a Healthy Planet Ecological Devastation and Health Care

Leader: For creation to be freed from bondage, for the hungry to be fed, for all to have clean air to breath and clean water to drink, for the sick to be healed, for the beloved community to come on earth, we lift our voices and call out for environmental justice and quality healthcare for all.

**People: We know the harm that comes with rising seas and contaminated water systems isn't evenly distributed.**

Leader: We know that pollution and climate change negatively affect people's health and quality of life.

**People: We hear the call of our sacred texts:**

Leader: "God is in the water, God is in the dry land, God is in the heart, God is in the forest, God is in the mountain, God is in the cave. Thou art in the tree, Thou are in its leaves, Thou art in the earth, Thou art in the firmament." (*Sikh, Govind Singh*)

**People: "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves" (Romans 8:22)**

Leader: We hear the call of our sacred texts: "Let all beings be engaged in one another's well-being: let all weakness, sickness, and faults be diminished and vanished; let everyone, everywhere be blissful and at peace." (*Jainism blessing*)

**People: "No more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be." (Isaiah 65)**

Leader: When the people we elect receive free health insurance and then turn around and deny coverage to the people who elect them, we must speak out.

**People: When thousands perish each year due to the lack of preventative, fundamental, and comprehensive healthcare, and when prescription drugs are sold for profit, we must speak out.**

Leader: When four million people do not have unleaded water to drink, we must speak out.

**People: When our politicians enact legislation that deny the sickness of our Mother Earth and allow big corporations to devastate our nation's land for their own profit and greed, we must speak out.**

Leader: When those same elected politicians deny the connection between ecological justice and justice for the poor, we must speak out.

*All: For creation to be freed from bondage, for the hungry to be fed, for all to have clean air to breath and clean water to drink, for the sick to be healed, for the beloved community to come on earth, we lift our voices and call out for environmental justice and quality healthcare for all.*

**Everybody's Got the Right to Live  
Education, Living Wage, Jobs, Income, and Housing**

Leader: Everybody's got a right to learn. Everybody's got a right to housing. Everybody's got a right to love.

**People: Everybody's got a right to live.**

Leader: When wages have stagnated over the past 50 years although the economy has grown and there are 62 million workers who earn less than a living wage, we must speak with one voice.

**People: Everybody's got a right to living wage jobs and the right to organize.**

Leader: When three individuals in the U.S. have as much wealth as the bottom 50% of all Americans combined, we must speak with one voice.

**People: Everybody's got a right to thrive.**

Leader: For the 44 million Americans who are carrying the burden of \$1.34 trillion dollars in student debt, we must speak out.

**People: Everybody's got a right to learn.**

Leader: When 3.5 million people are sleeping in shelters every year and 7.4 million are on the brink of homelessness—the majority of whom are white and up to 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQIA—we must speak with one voice.

**People: Everybody's got a right to housing.**

Leader: When 38% of American households—primarily black and Latino families—have a net worth of zero dollars, we must speak with one voice.

**People: Everybody's got a right to a quality education. Everybody's got a right to living wage job. Everybody's got a right to safe, affordable housing.**

Leader: Our nation's guiding documents, written by our forebearers, state: "All [people] are created, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"

**People: All of our religions sacred texts affirm the dignity of every person.**

Leader: "We carry [the children of Adam] on the land and the sea, and have made provision of good things for them..." (*The Qur'an*)

**People: "You shall not abuse a needy and destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger..."** (*Jewish scriptures, Deuteronomy 24:14*)

Leader: "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me...When you did it unto these, you did it unto me." (*Christian scripture, Matthew 25:34-36*)

*All: Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness means the right to a quality education, purposeful work that pays a living wage, and safe affordable shelter for self and family. Everybody's got a right to learn. Everybody's got a right to housing. Everybody's got a right to live.*